

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

/075 W

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R 251701Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2464

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, XF

SUBJECT: UNESCO SEARCH FOR INTEREST-FREE LOANS

1. DURING AUGUST 21 MEETING WITH ACTING PERM REP, DIRECTOR OF UNESCO DIVISION OF RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES KINANY (SYRIA) SPOKE EXTENSIVELY ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO ARAB COUNTRIES IN SEARCH FOR INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO OFFSET PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UNESCO.

2. KINANY, FORMERLY DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN SYRIA, SAID THAT DURING HIS TWO MONTHS MISSION (JUNE 16 - AUGUST 18) AS PERSONAL EMISSARY OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

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M'BOW (SENEGAL), HE HAS VISITED ALL 16 ARAB COUNTRIES AND WAS RECEIVED "AT HIGHEST LEVEL," INCLUDING BY HEADS OF

STATES, PRIME MINISTERS AND MFA ON EDUCATION.

3. KINANY DESCRIBED HIS MANDATE AS "CLEAR AND SIMPLE" :
DG HAS RECENTLY SENT URGENT APPEAL TO ALL MEMBER STATES
OF UNESCO, ASKING THEM TO MAKE INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO
EASE PRESENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY. HIS JOB WAS TO
DELIVER PERSONALLY DG'S APPEAL AND TO ASK FOR COMMITMENT
"WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED." HIS COLLEAGUES IN CHARGE OF
RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES IN OTHER REGIONS WOULD
"PROBABLY" SOON BE DOING SAME MISSIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO KINANY, SO FAR TWO ARAB STATES MADE
OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS - SAUDI ARABIA WITH \$4.6 MILLION
INTEREST-FREE LOAN AND LIBYA WITH \$4.4 MILLION. KINANY
BELIEVES THAT SOON OTHERS WILL ALSO RESPOND
AFFIRMATIVELY. ASKED HOW MUCH HE EXPECTS TOTAL ARAB
INTEREST-FREE LOANS WILL BE, KINANY REPLIED WITHOUT
HESITATION "19 MILLION DOLLARS." ASKED TO ELABORATE
HE SAID THAT ARAB LEAGUE MET TO CONSIDER DG'S APPEAL AND
HAS AGREED ON 19 MILLION FIGURE BY DIVIDING THIS SUM
AMONG ITS MEMBERS, ASSIGNING SPECIFIC AMOUNT TO
EACH IN ACCORDANCE WITH "ABILITY TO PAY."

5. ASKED WHETHER HE KNEW OF ANY OTHER ANTICIPATED
POSITIVE RESPONSE, KINANY MENTIONED CHINA, NIGERIA,
CANADA AND JAPAN.

6. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN SEEKING INTEREST-
FREE LOANS DG M'BOW IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF NEED TO HAVE
PROPER BALANCE AND THAT HE IS WORKING HARD TO OBTAIN
FAVORABLE COMMITMENTS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS. HOWEVER,
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE OUTLOOK IS VERY PROMISING; E.G.
WE HAVE LEARNED THAT UK, DENMARK AND ITALY HAVE FORMALLY
REPLIED TO DG'S LETTER NEGATIVELY. ALSO, THAT EC NINE
WILL MEET AUGUST 26 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER. WE WILL
KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED RE RESULTS.

7. PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE FROM INFO ADDRESSES ANY
INFORMATION THEY MAY LEARN CONCERNING HOST COUNTRY'S
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WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO UNESCO IN
RESPONSE TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S APPEAL.
GAMMON

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